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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at [www.ve7sar.net](http://www.ve7sar.net) that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



# 2010 Awards of Distinction

## Three SARC Members Recognized For Their Contributions

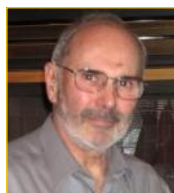
It has become a recent tradition that we recognize those members who have delivered extraordinary service to the club and to amateur radio. Three SARC members were honoured by their peers this past year.

### Hiu Yee VE7YXG



We have amongst our members a person who has worked tirelessly in the background for something like 10 years to create and manage SARC's web-site. Not only that but he stuck with the club through the lean years, faithfully supporting events and other members. He is always there with his camera, recording club activities even though he has to travel a long way from Burnaby to do so. He also assisted Gary with ham classes, just concluded. The club could not exist without members like Hiu.

### Fred Orsetti VE7IO



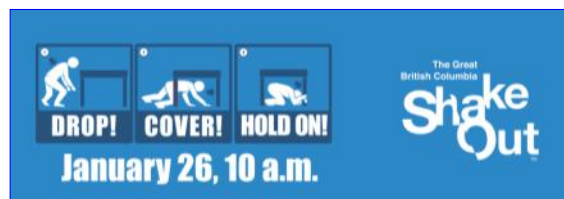
This member has mentored many of our members and helped them get started in ham radio, or assisted them in working through the technical challenges. He is the "go to" guy for friendly, capable help in the SARC. He has been, and is, involved in so many aspects of amateur radio, including organizing emergency communication in Surrey, HF nets including several years as net control manager, a promoter of CW and contesting to the extent that we might describe him as the all-round ham. In addition, he is one of the founding members of the Surrey club. We are speaking of one of the select few who can be said to have made the Surrey Club what it is today.

### Bill Gipps VE7XS



The final award is to another outstanding ham, one who has capably represented not only this club but other amateur radio groups, particularly the entire British Columbia and Yukon region on the national level through Radio Amateurs of Canada. This man works tirelessly on our behalf, spending large sums of his own money for travel back and forth to Ottawa to represent our interests. He is one of the most enthusiastic and energetic promoters of amateur radio that we have in our midst.

This man can always be counted on to support club events, to step in and mediate tricky political issues and to take a special interest in our activities. He is one of those persons we have to thank for gaining an exemption to the hands-free regulation allowing operation of amateur radio in our vehicles. We all know about his farm project in Langley which he generously makes available to his colleagues so they can share the most exciting aspects of amateur radio in a contest setting. We are very privileged to have this extraordinary person as a member of our club and be able to honour him today.



## Meeting Minutes

Gord Kirk VE7GRK—SARC Secretary



# January Meeting Minutes

The general meeting was started at 7:00 pm President John VA7XB. 12 people were in attendance at the Surrey PREOC. John introduced Gordon Kirk VE7GRK our speaker for later in the evening.

### 1. Meeting Location

The venue for our next meeting has been confirmed it will be the PREOC.

### 2. New Calendar

A new calendar of known events for this year is now up on the club website.

### 3. Ham Classes

A course will start on Feb 3, 2011. This class needs 6-10 students to go ahead. Please do your part and help fill the class by encouraging family, friends and coworkers to take our class. Course fee is \$120.00

### 4. CW Course

Gary Skett VE7AS will be beginning a class Saturday Jan 22nd from Noon-13:00 hrs. Please contact Gary for further details.

### 5. Website Upgrades

A meeting of interested club members will be taking place on Jan 27th to review the website for a design and content review. Status: ongoing.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

Scott VE7CNR was absent but supplied a report. John VA7XB delivered this report and added as of tonight's meeting we have 63 paid members (1 new member paid tonight).

### 7. Burnaby Club Flea Market

The Burnaby club's annual flea market is Feb 27. SARC has purchased a table and any members wanting to sell items are welcome to do this at the SARC table. Entrance fee is \$6.00.

### 8. Club Inventory

Anton VE7SSD has been asked to review the club inventory and recommend which items to dispose of (or sell).

### 9. Fox Hunt /RDF (Radio Direction Finding) Event

May 14th is the date scheduled for this event. Anton will organize this with assistance of Amel VE7KBA (from Burnaby club and BC Radio Sport). The entry fee and charge for lunch will be determined and announce at a later time.

### 10. SEPARS.

No report was available tonight. The next workshop is Jan 20th at #214 13569 76 Ave Surrey. 7:30-9:30 pm.

### 11. Gaming Grant

The club received a grant for \$20,000.00. We will proceed with buying new repeater equipment (2m/220/440), purchasing a pro-

jector, a large tent for field day and relocation of the repeaters to a new site. Several club members have been tasked with various parts of this plan.

### 12. Upcoming Events

February meeting: Amel VE7KBA from BC Radio sport will be giving a talk on his participation in an RDF event in Croatia.

March meeting: Tower Safety. We are planning on having a US Towers rep give this talk.

April meeting: Antenna modeling software.

May meeting: Show your grab n go kit. We will have several grab n go kits on display. If you have one and would like to bring it along please let us know.

### 13. RAC Insurance update.

Bill Gipps VE7XS sent a PowerPoint presentation to help explain RAC insurance and the recent changes in fee structure. John VA7XB broke down the cost of SARC's insurance cost this year. Total cost was \$683.20 (Paid, see page 5).

### 14. SARC Club Fee Structure.

A discussion on increasing club fees occurred as a result of the increased RAC insurance costs. A recommended dues structure of \$30.00 for a basic membership and \$40.00 for a family was discussed. A RAC member would have a \$5.00 discount as this would directly reduce our annual club insurance costs.

Further this year we discussed three options related to this increase in fees.

Option 1: Absorb it

Option 2: Surcharge members

Option 3: Hold a special fund raising event. John VA7XB mentioned one of the best ways club member could help would be to promote the upcoming Ham class.

As the fee structure does not require changes until the AGM no decision was made.

### 15. Gordon Kirk VE7GRK's presentation on the 911 system.

The meeting ended at 21:00

## SARC EXECUTIVE FOR 2010-2011

PRESIDENT  
John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT  
Don Hamilton VA7GL

SECRETARY  
Gordon Kirk VE7GRK

TREASURER  
Scott Hawrelak VE7CNR

WEB MASTER  
Hui Yee VE7YXG

COMMUNICATOR EDITOR  
John Schouten VE7TI

DIRECTORS  
Bill Gipps VE7XS  
Kelvin Hall VA7KPH  
Fred Orsetti VE7IO  
John Schouten VE7TI  
Gary Skett VE7AS  
Chris Zetner VA7CMZ

## SEPARS Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



### Monthly Exercise With Langley

Monthly exercises with Langley will resume on January 22nd. We are looking for volunteers to help with the radio room operation and participate from home.

Al Saunders, VA7BIT, has taken on the role of message clerk/station manager

### Monthly Workshops

The January 20th workshop will focus on the Grab and Go kit. Drew Elvins, VA7DRW will walk us through the kit setup and the operation manual. We will have a kit on site so if you have not had a chance to experience the setup and operation of our portable station this will be a very good opportunity to have hands on experience

### Gaming Grant

The SEPARS executive met on Thursday January 6th to get the ball rolling with the gaming grant projects. Each of the five projects was assigned to a SEPARS member as follows.

1. Vests - Marcy, VE7JT: Marcy has already done work on design and pricing and is well along the way to making a final recommendation to the executive.
2. BCWARN - Drew, VA7DRW, will lead the team on the installation of BCWARN and will be assisted by Al Saunders and Jim Hurrell. The first meeting with Ian Procyk and Neil King will take place at the Coquitlam ARC on Saturday January 15th. Following this meeting we should have enough information to get the project started.
3. Training - we have an ambitious training schedule this year which will get under way very shortly. John Schouten, VE7TI, Jay Melvin, VE7OFH, Kelvin Hall, VA7KPH and Alan Saunders, VA7BIT are the training team. Drew Elvins, VA7DRW, will keep track of individual training records.
4. Hi Q antennas - Don Hamilton, VA7GL, is the team leader for the purchase and commissioning of the Grab and Go kit Hi Q antennas. We have one antenna being tested now with two more to be purchased.

5. 220 MHz radios - We are going to install 220 radios in the Grab and Go kits as well as the radio room. This will expand our ability to pass traffic when the VHF and UHF bands are too busy. John Brodie, VA7XB, will be presenting a recommendation for the purchase of the 220 MHz radios.

The one item on the grant application that we did not receive funding for was the trailer. I have been in touch with the gaming branch and they say we can purchase a trailer if we have money left from the other projects but we must deliver the other projects first. With this in mind I have talked to the trailer suppliers and we may be able to swing this as the prices have come down significantly. I have taken this project on myself and plan to work as hard as I can to acquire a trailer.

### Weekly Net

The SEPARS weekly two meter net is running smoothly with the check-ins on the SARC repeater and then the message portion on 146.550 simplex. We encourage all SEPARS and SARC members to check into the nets as this is a very good way to get message handling training. I think at some point we will have the messages sent back using amateur radio as well.

*WHY NOT CONSIDER TAKING A NET CONTROL POSITION*

# Join Us

for the Largest  
Earthquake Drill  
in Canadian History.



**January 26, 10 a.m.**

The Great  
British Columbia  
**Shake Out**



Register at [www.ShakeOutbc.ca](http://www.ShakeOutbc.ca)





## BASIC AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING CLASSES START ON THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 2011

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN USING RADIO FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE?

WANT TO BUILD RADIO EQUIPMENT AND ANTENNAS OR

COMMUNICATE BY HAM RADIO WITH OTHERS ACROSS THE GLOBE OR

USE ORBITING SATELLITES TO RELAY RADIO SIGNALS?

YOU CAN DO ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE

**THE COURSE, INCLUDING INDUSTRY CANADA EXAM, WILL BE GIVEN  
IN SURREY OVER 9 WEEKS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING  
FEB. 3 TO MARCH 31 FROM 6:30 TO 9:30 PM**

**A BEGINNER'S SEMINAR WILL FOLLOW ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

No. 9 Firehall

14901 64 Avenue, Surrey

(north side of 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. at the railway crossing)

COURSE FEE: \$120, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE – includes textbook

Cheques payable to Surrey ARC

Send to: 12160 Boundary Dr. S., Surrey, BC V3X2B7

Register for course at: [ve7as@rac.ca](mailto:ve7as@rac.ca)

### Learn the Morse Code

Informal CW meeting at various locations between Langley and South Surrey. Starts January 22nd from Noon -13:00 hrs. First Meeting at Al Munnik's (VA7MP) QTH. No fee, bring your keys, paddles and bugs... and a twoonie for the coffee fund. Limit 10 per group, for details contact Gary VE7AS at [ve7as@rac.ca](mailto:ve7as@rac.ca)

## News You Can Use

### RAC 2011 Club Insurance program

*The following are notes from Bill Gipps' presentation to the January SARC meeting.*

#### **Why is there a RAC Insurance Program?**

To provide a benefit to membership in RAC for individual members and RAC Affiliated Clubs who elect to purchase the insurance through RAC.

To make available liability and equipment insurance for RAC Affiliated Clubs and their RAC club members - Non-RAC members liability for club sponsored events only.

To provide insurance coverage that is difficult for Clubs to obtain on their own - at a lower cost than market rates if they could find coverage.

RAC Insurance program is not designed for, or available to the general public.

Club coverage only for RAC Affiliated Clubs (Insurer Requirement).

All Club members i.e. social members, occasional guests, unlicensed members, of an insured RAC Affiliated Club have liability coverage at Club events.

Personal liability and equipment coverage only available to RAC members of an insured RAC Affiliated Club.

#### **Economics**

Insurance Program operates on a not for loss, full cost recovery basis.

RAC does not make any money from the program, in fact it struggles to break even with it.

Labour intensive administration for volunteers and HQ.

#### **Why so many changes this year?**

Previous insurer would NOT renew our coverage, found out with very little notice to RAC.

New insurer had to be found.

Polled Clubs in October to determine requirements.

Search for new insurer led by a 40+ year insurance professional who is also a ham.

Cost of liability insurance has increased dramatically, more than double!

Insurer also changed the requirements for coverage.

#### **Existing requirements for Coverage**

Clubs must be Affiliated with RAC.

Clubs must be Incorporated.

Membership stats must be provided, fees paid.

New Requirements - Set by the Insurer.

Personal liability coverage only available to RAC members who are ALSO a member of an insured RAC Affiliated Club (can be a member of ANY RAC Affiliated Club).

Club must complete application listing activities.

#### **Features for 2011**

Liability and Equipment Coverage Available.

\$10M/yr aggregate liability coverage, \$3M/claim.

Equipment loss/damage available at additional cost to RAC Affiliated Clubs and RAC members.

Only \$1 per \$100 of coverage - Includes lightning and surge events .

Liability covers all insured RAC Affiliated Club members (RAC members or not) for normal club activities e.g. Field Day, Flea Markets, Meetings, Public demonstrations.

#### **Personal Coverage available**

Liability coverage for your own amateur radio activities at no extra cost (if you belong to an insured RAC Affiliated Club).

Same limits as Club Liability coverage.

Enhances coverage your home insurance may provide.

Equipment loss/damage available as well, for additional cost.

Only available to RAC members who are also a member of an insured RAC Affiliated Club.

Requirement of the Insurance company NOT RAC.

#### **Fee Structure**

Costs had doubled, fees needed to as well.

Non RAC member costs had to be covered.

RAC members told us (in no uncertain terms) they did not want to subsidize non-members anymore.

Cost apportioned between RAC members and non-members - non-members to pay a surcharge of \$11.

Youth (<18), students (<25) and Honourary Club members exempted from surcharge (purchased Life memberships not eligible).

Check out all the details at the [RAC website](#). The SARC Executive will discuss the impact of these changes on our membership dues and present them at a future meeting.

*Bill Gipps, Director, BC & YT, Radio Amateurs of Canada*

## QRM

News Clips

**Congratulations** to our other 12-year old Basic course student who finally wrote her exam. We received word from Industry Canada that they have processed Rena Song's application and she has been assigned VA7AWE.

**Mark Fobb** VE7TLZ has his Ham station set up on his sail boat and would like to arrange an HF sched on 10 and/or 80 metres to do some testing. Mark is a new Ham, never been on HF and would like some assistance from anyone who has some time to talk to him on the radio and perhaps on VHF or the telephone. If you are able to assist, please contact Mark at [mfrobb@shaw.ca](mailto:mfrobb@shaw.ca)

**Serious Things** Can Happen When You Attend SARC's Christmas Party! Bill Little VA7ZBL says that it wasn't the wine that did it, but admitted it couldn't have done any harm. After his twin sons, Leon and Craig (*right*) each won a door prize of Domaine de Chaberton Cuvee Rouge at the Christmas party and proceeded to partake of it later in the day, Craig proposed to Leanne and she accepted. Congratulations to the Littles.



## Radio-Active

Diana Eng KC2UHB

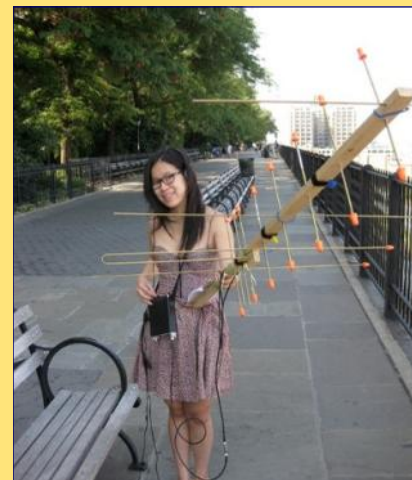
### Nerd and Fashion Designer

Diana Eng is a fashion designer who specializes in technology, math, and science. Her designs range from inflatable clothing to fashions inspired by the mechanical engineering of biomimetics. At 22, her inflatable dress (co-created with Emily Albinski) made the cover of ID Magazine. In 2005, she was a designer on season 2 of the Emmy nominated hit TV show, Project Runway.

She won Yahoo Hack Day in 2006 along with her two-team mates for designing and creating a blogging purse in less than 24 hours. She has worked as an assistant designer in research & development at Victoria's Secret. She is the author of *'Fashion Geek: Clothes, Accessories, Tech'*. Her work has been featured in exhibits both in the U.S. and internationally around the globe, and has graced the pages of such publications as Women's Wear Daily, Wired, and Craft Magazine. Diana is Make's ham radio correspondent. Diana currently designs in the NYC fashion industry and is a founding member of Brooklyn based hacker group NYC Resistor.

Have a look at this young lady's YouTube videos. She is truly 'Radio-Active'.

[Catching satellites on ham radio](#)  
[Ham Radio 101: Getting Started Without a License](#)  
[Directional Antennas](#)  
[Ham radio fun for holiday air travel](#)  
[Seeing radio waves with a light bulb](#)  
[Hobby Radio guide](#)



## 'Net' Working

Internet Resources for Hams

There are many of us out there who now carry a smart phone. Devices using the iPhone and Android mobile operating systems are common place. Now Windows has brought out its new mobile platform further opening up the market. There are many applications in their respective libraries to choose from and Amateur Radio is well represented.

I personally use an Apple iPod Touch, basically an iPhone without a carrier. I can still make phone calls and access the web, I just have to find a hotspot. That has not been a problem as there are lots of free ones out there.

Amateur Radio apps are offered through the Apple Store. I gather Android is also well stocked. Here is a summary of five of my favourite ones.

**EchoLink** (Free) for iPhone is an edition of the EchoLink software that runs on an iPhone or iPod touch. If you own one of these devices and are a validated EchoLink user, you can access the EchoLink system from nearly anywhere (and I have) where WiFi is available. If you have an iPhone, you can also use it to access EchoLink over the cellular data (3G or EDGE) network. EchoLink for iPhone is available free of charge from Apple's App Store.



The iPhone edition focuses on the basic features of EchoLink, such as managing the Station List, connecting and disconnecting, and transmitting and receiving voice and text. The user interface has been re-designed to function smoothly on the smaller screen of the iPhone, and to take advantage of some of its built-in hardware features. Signal reports IU have received checking into the SARC and SEPAR nets indicate that the signal quality is excellent.

**Satellite Tracker** (Free) Track satellites as they pass over your location. This application allows you to select any number of satellites and will show the track through the sky of the next pass(es) of each over your location. Frequency information can be added so you know how to tune into the signals.

**OpenAPRS** (\$2.99) iPhone Edition brings the world of APRS right to your iPhone—no radio needed. Paired with iPhone's built in map engine, Internet connection and GPS, OpenAPRS gives you access to check your APRS messages, beacon your position and view other Amateur Radio operators anywhere in the world.



Send your position with any model iPhone by assisted GPS, cell phone triangulation or manual coordinate entry. Share your trip with your friends as they view you on their iPhones, APRS software connected to APRS-IS or on the OpenAPRS website:

<http://www.openaprs.net/>

**QSL.FM Mobile** (\$1.99) is an ultra fast app for Amateur Radio operators on the go. From automatic GeoLocation searches of nearby repeaters, to US FCC Amateur Call-sign searches, QSL Mobile has many features and a promise of many more to come. This is a software replacement for the popular ARRL Repeater Directory but you can display by Zip Code, frequency etc.

There are currently over 20,000 repeaters listed with daily updates. Call sign searches are fast but restricted to the FCC database at this time.

The Geolocation function will automatically locate you and display all of the nearby repeaters automatically but you can always plan your trip by browsing the repeater directory manually by State, and RF Band!

**Morse-It** (\$.99) As the name implies, this is a CW application featured on Gizmodo, a popular tech website. Morse-It can do just about everything possible with Morse code—type in some text, and it will be translated into Morse audio as well as full-screen flashes.



Also, amazingly, it can listen to CW (fast operators too—the demo here is 40 words per minute) allowing to decode, in real time, the Morse code recorded from the microphone into text. Some automatic calibration is performed, allowing adaptation to speed, tone and volume changes. Different input types are handled: Novice, Straight key, Memory Paddle, Iambic Paddle (A and B). Left and right handed modes supported. Test and improve your skills: are you good enough to be understood? Very cool stuff indeed! For a closer look, with video:

<http://appstore.free.fr/Morselt/?lang=en>

For a list of other apps, have look at the link below. While it lists many, I found that it is a bit dated as more apps appear monthly.

<http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/iPhone/>

- John Schouten, VE7TI



## SARC President's Comments

John Brodie VA7XB



At SARC's first meeting of the year on Jan. 12th, issues around liability insurance (available via RAC) for club members were discussed. The essential points which have been set out in a series of PowerPoint slides prepared by Bill Gipps, RAC Director for BC & YT (see page 5), have generated much impassioned debate.

In reviewing the slides, John VA7XB emphasized to members that a consensus had been reached amongst the Executive and Directors that insurance is essential for SARC and its members, considering the risks involved in our club activities. Consequently the premium has now been paid to obtain coverage in 2011, despite the high cost compared to previous years. The first question that arises from this decision is what should be done to recoup the extraordinary expense incurred this year? Several options were put forth including

1. Absorbing the cost from club funds
2. Imposing a small voluntary levy for all members, or
3. Sponsoring a special fund-raising event.

Most members seemed to favour option 2 as the most expedient means of defraying the cost this year. An argument was also put forth for option 1, accompanied by extra effort put into the two regular fund-raisers that we have, i.e. flea market and ham classes.

After some discussion, the matter was tabled until the next meeting, when a motion will be entertained after members have an opportunity to think about the options.

Regarding future insurance costs, the Executive is recommending to the membership that annual club dues be raised in accordance with the following formula: Individual membership from \$20 to \$30; family membership from \$30

to \$40; in both cases a \$5 discount would be available to club members who are also RAC members.

A vote will be taken on the fee increase at the AGM in June. Your Executive encourages support of RAC, as our national organization provides many services that promote amateur radio including (to name just three) defense of our spectrum use, QSL card services and support for erecting antenna structures.

After the insurance discussion, an excellent presentation was made by Gord Kirk VE7GRK regarding the BC Ambulance Service, its resources and capabilities and how it interacts with other emergency agencies. The functioning of the 911 system was fully described with some examples of the kinds of detailed instructions callers can expect to receive upon reporting an emergency, whether it be an accident, medical emergency, fire or other catastrophe.



Thanks to Gord for enlightening us all about how the Ambulance Service and 911 are there to assist on those critical occasions when we need the help of these capable professionals.

At next month's meeting we can look forward to a presentation by Amel VA7KBA on the RDF competition in Croatia.

## DOWN THE LOG...

### SARC Monthly Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (Sept-Jun)  
1900 hrs local at PEP PREOC,  
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

### Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 local  
ABC Country Restaurant located  
at 600 - 7380 King George Blvd.  
Surrey

### SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 local  
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

### SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 local  
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

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### Announcements & News

SEPARS Monthly Workshop  
January 20th, 7 to 9:30pm, Rm.  
214, 13569 76th Ave.

Learn the Morse Code  
Informal CW meeting at various  
locations between Langley and  
South Surrey. Starts January  
22nd from Noon-13:00 hrs.  
First Meeting at Al Munnik's QTH

Please confirm attendance with  
Gary [VE7AS@rac.ca](mailto:VE7AS@rac.ca)

Basic Amateur Licensing Class  
Starts on Thursday, Feb 3rd for 9  
weeks at No. 9 Firehall, 14901 64  
Avenue, Surrey \$120

### On the Web [ve7sar.net](http://ve7sar.net)

Between newsletters, watch  
your e-mail for announcements  
of events, monthly meetings and  
training opportunities. These  
announcements may also be  
found on our web page.



SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible

on IRLP node 1980 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and IRPL node 1463. Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

### VIA THE WEB

[www.ve7sar.net](http://www.ve7sar.net)

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VE7YXG

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